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College Teachers Vote To End Segregation In Southern Graduate and Professional Schools

In a Poll of 15,000 Teachers in 155 Southern Colleges and Universities, With 3,422 Replies, 7 Out of Every 10 Voted to Admit Negroes to Graduate Schools, Without Segregation

SEVEN out of ten, who replied in a poll of Southern college teachers, favored the immediate admission of Negroes to graduate and professional schools, without segregation.

The poll was conducted by the Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc. Ballots were mailed to 15,000 teachers. There were 3,422 replies.

Catalogues of 155 colleges and universities in 14 Southern and border states and the District of Columbia were used as the basis for the poll.

In only one state, Mississippi (with 39%), was the vote less than 50% for the immediate end of segregation at the graduate level.

Only one in four favored the plan advocated by the Conference of Southern Governors of regional, graduate centers on a segregated basis.

Four choices were given voters, and the number of votes cast for each were as follows:

A. Open existing graduate and professional schools to Negroes without segregation, 2, 412 (70.5% of the votes cast). 506 (21%) of those voting for Plan A favored the qualification, "only when the desired courses are not offered by state-supported schools for Negroes."

B. Open existing graduate schools with segregation, 88 (3%).

C. Establish new graduate schools for Negroes, 80 (2%).

D. Establish regional, segregated graduate schools for Negroes (The Southern Governors' plan), 842 (24.5%).

States voting from 80 to 100 per cent to end segregation were: West Virginia 97%, Maryland 92%, Kentucky 84%, District of Columbia 83%, Virginia 80%.

Of the total 3,422 ballots received, 3,133 (91%) were from teachers representing 130 "white" institutions, and 288 (9%) were from teachers representing 25 "Negro" institutions.

Of the ballots received from white schools, 68% voted for Plan A (to end segregation) and 27% voted for Plan D (the regional plan). Of the ballots received from Negro schools, 97% voted for Plan A, and 3% for Plan D.

State universities, with the exception of the University of West Virginia, were not included because they were covered by a similar poll last year.

The University of West Virginia was included for two reasons. It was not included in the previous poll, and it is one of the seven states where separate schools are maintained by law, but where the racial bar has been lowered in the graduate schools of the state university. Thus it provides a laboratory check on the attitudes of a faculty which has had practical experience with mixed classes.

It is interesting to compare the results of the present poll with the results of the poll of state universities in 1948. In the poll of state universities there were 371 replies, with 69% voting for Plan A (against 70.5% in the larger poll); 28% for Plan D (24.5% in the larger poll); and 3% for Plans B and C (compared to 5% in the larger poll).

The ballots stated that signatures were "optional" but 2,626 (77% of the returns) were signed.

Fifty-three per cent of those who replied gave written reasons for their choice.

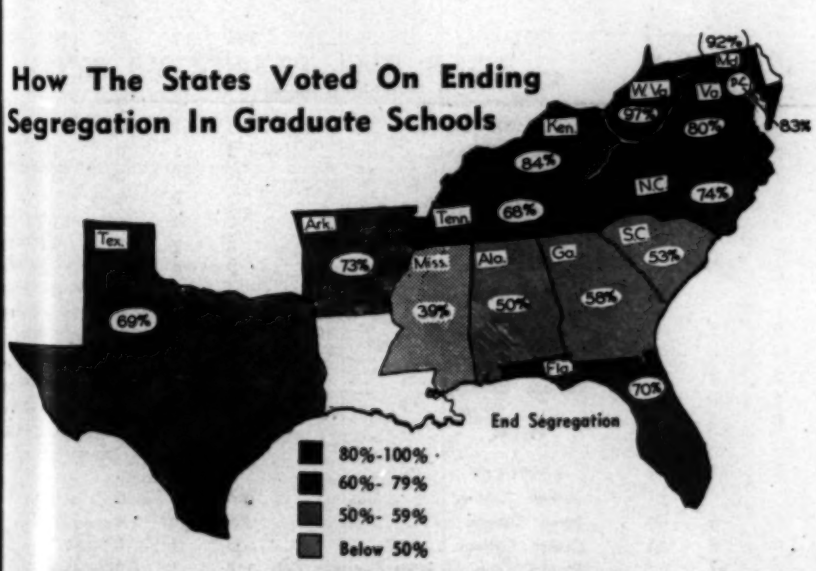
A few selected comments follow:

COMMENT IN FAVOR OF PLAN D

"If the two races cannot mix at the college level of intelligence, God help us." (Ala., Language)

"If we are educating minds, "A" is

How The States Voted On Ending Segregation In Graduate Schools



the way to do it. If we are maintaining the status quo, why bother about graduate training at all?" (Georgia, Medicine)

"University of Ky. tried "A" this summer. It worked out O. K. as far as I learned. The sky did not fall, neither did any of the buildings fall down." (Ky., Commerce)

"It seems that there is a definite correlation between segregation and backwardness. It could be that backwardness is the cause of segregation. Whatever it is, it seems difficult to separate them." (Miss.)

"In many fields of graduate study any segregation would defeat much of the purpose of a graduate school. Advanced scholars working in one field cannot be divided by segregation lines." (Tex., Physics)

"It is the only means by which our high-sounding platitudes of freedom, individual dignity and equality of opportunity can be removed from the status of mere theory into the realm of reality." (S. C.)

"(Plan A) has worked well at W. Va. University." (W. Va., Mathematics)

COMMENT IN FAVOR OF PLAN D

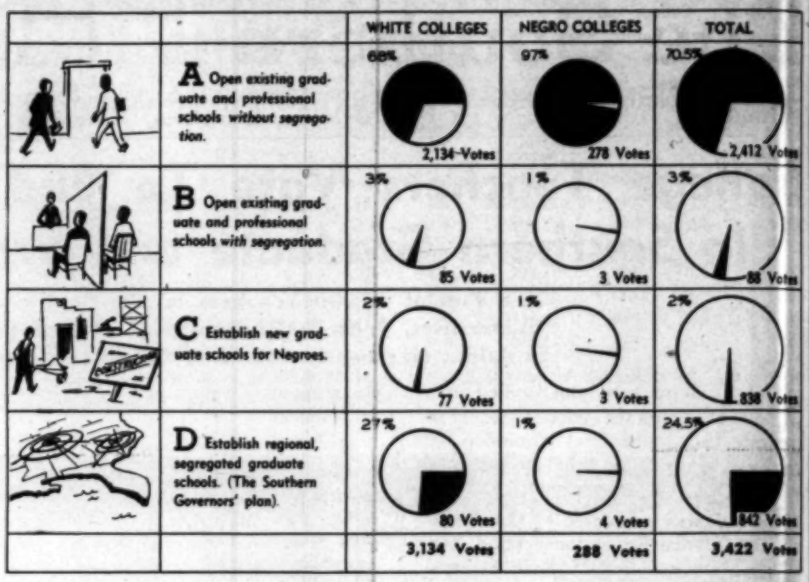
"Plan A would result in violence." (Fla., Political Science)

"We often lose ground by trying to gain too much too rapidly. One hundred years after the abolition of slavery would be soon enough to attempt another drastic change." (Miss., Library Science)

"If large scale intimate social associations exist between males and females of the white and black races, a few foolish white girls will marry blacks. Thus it will come about that in a few generations nobody can be sure, without extensive geneological research, that his or her contemplated mate is all white or all black." (S. C.)

"I favor a class society. The Negro is the obvious candidate for the lower class." (Va.)

Poll On Best Racial Practices In Higher Education



VOTES BY STATES AND SCHOOLS

College	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D	Total
ALABAMA					
State A & M College (N)	5	0	1	0	6
Alabama College	11	1	0	11	23
Alabama Polytechnic Institute	61	4	3	57	125
Birmingham Southern College	4	0	0	2	6
Howard College	5	2	2	6	15
Huntington College	10	1	0	8	19
Judson College	1	2	0	7	10
Spring Hill College	3	0	0	0	3
State Teachers College (Jacksonville)	7	0	0	7	14
State Teachers College (Livingston)	0	0	0	5	5
State Teachers College (Troy)	4	0	0	7	11
Talladega College (N)	13	0	0	0	13
College Unknown	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	126	10	6	110	252
ARKANSAS					
Arkansas A & M College	6	1	0	5	12
Arkansas State College	11	1	1	4	17
Agricultural, M. & N. College (N)	9	0	0	0	9
Hendrix College	8	0	0	2	10
College Unknown	3	0	0	0	3
TOTAL	37	2	1	11	51
FLORIDA					
Florida A & M College (N)	27	0	1	0	28
Florida Southern	13	2	0	6	21
Miami University	87	2	4	22	115
Rollins College	15	1	0	10	26
Florida State University	127	1	1	56	185
John B. Stetson University	16	0	1	13	30
College Unknown	1	1	0	2	4
TOTAL	286	7	7	109	409
GEORGIA					
Agnes Scott College	14	0	0	4	18
Bessie Tift College	3	1	0	3	7
Brenau College	0	1	0	3	4
Emory University	37	0	0	26	63
La Grange College	3	0	1	3	7
Mercer University	8	0	0	13	21
North Georgia College	8	2	0	3	13
Shorter College	0	0	1	1	2
Georgia State College (N)	9	0	0	0	9
Georgia State College for Women	8	0	0	11	19
Georgia Teachers College	4	0	0	2	6
Wesleyan College	13	0	0	6	19
College Unknown	4	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	111	4	2	76	193
KENTUCKY					
Asbury College	17	0	0	1	18
Berea College	56	0	0	2	58
Centre College	14	1	0	0	15
Eastern Kentucky State Teachers Col.	18	3	0	4	25

College	Plan A	Plan B	Plan C	Plan D	Total
Georgetown College	14	0	0	3	17
Morehead State College	20	0	0	3	23
Murray State Teachers College	22	0	1	4	27
Nazareth College	21	0	0	1	22
Transylvania College	12	0	2	4	18
Union College	4	0	0	1	5
Ursuline College	20	0	0	0	20
West Kentucky State Teachers Col.	13	1	3	12	29
Kentucky Wesleyan College	7	0	0	0	7
College Unknown	2	0	0	0	2
TOTAL	240	5	6	35	286
MISSISSIPPI					
Alcorn A & M College (N)	6	0	1	1	8
Belhaven College	2	2	1	4	9
Blue Mountain College	3	0	0	3	6
Jackson College (N)	3	0	0	0	3
Millsaps College	6	1	0	2	9
Mississippi College	2	0	2	7	11
Mississippi State College for Women	2	2	2	13	19
Tougaloo College (N)	2	2	0	0	4
College Unknown	2	0	0	1	3
TOTAL	28	7	6	31	72
NORTH CAROLINA					
Bennett College (N)	2	0	0	0	2
Catawba College	14	1	2	3	20
Davidson College	14	0	0	6	20
East Carolina Teachers College	17	1	1	7	26
Elon College	6	0	1	4	11
State Teachers College (N)	6	0	0	0	6
Greensboro College	8	1	0	0	9
Guilford College	7	0	0	0	7
Lenoir Rhyne College	13	1	0	5	19
A & T College (N)	17	0	0	0	17
Livingston College (N)	7	0	0	1	8
Meredith College	13	1	0	1	15
North Carolina College (N)	15	0	0	0	15
North Carolina State College	89	1	2	34	126
Queens College	9	1	0	1	11
State Teachers College (N)	7	0	0	0	7
Salem College	3	0	0	3	6
St. Augustine's College (N)	3	0	0	0	3
Shaw University (N)	13	0	0	0	13
Wake Forest College	12	0	0	6	18
Western Carolina Teachers College	8	3	0	7	18
Woman's College, University of N. C.	33	0	0	13	46
College Unknown	2	0	0	4	6
TOTAL	318	10	6	95	429
SOUTH CAROLINA					
Claflin University (N)	6	0	0	0	6
Clemson College	22	1	4	37	64
Coker College	4	0	0	0	4
Columbia College	0	1	0	1	2
Converse College	5	0	0	2	7
Erskine College	3	0	1	3	7
Furman University	17	1	0	4	22
Limestone College	3	0	0	2	5
Newberry College	1	0	0	4	5
State A & M College (N)	20	0	0	1	21
The Citadel	22	1	0	17	40
Winthrop College	12	1	0	18	31
Wofford College	6	0	0	4	10
College Unknown	0	1	0	2	3
TOTAL	121	6	5	95	227
TENNESSEE					
Austin Peay State College	3	0	0	2	5
Carson Newman College	11	1	0	9	21
East Tennessee State College	14	1	0	6	21
King College	4	0	0	1	5
LeMoyne College (N)	7	1	0	0	8
Lincoln Memorial University	10	0	1	2	13
Maryville College	27	0	0	2	29
Memphis State College	13	0	0	7	20
George Peabody College for Teachers	6	1	0	8	15
Scarritt College	5	0	0	0	5
Southwestern	11	0	0	3	14
Tennessee Polytechnic Institute	11	1	0	8	20
Tusculum College	7	0	0	1	8
Union University	3	0	0	6	9
University of Chattanooga	15	2	1	4	22

VOTES BY STATES AND RACE

	PLAN A			PLAN B		PLAN C		PLAN D			Total		
	White		Negro	White	Negro	White	Negro	White		Negro	White	Negro	Grand
	No.	Percent	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	No.	Percent	No.	No.	No.	Total
Alabama	108	46	18	10	0	5	1	110	47	0	233	19	252
Arkansas	28	67	9	2	0	1	0	11	26	0	42	9	51
Florida	259	68	27	7	0	6	1	109	29	0	381	28	409
Georgia	102	55	9	4	0	2	0	76	41	0	184	9	193
Kentucky	240	84	—	5	—	6	—	35	12	—	286	—	286
Mississippi	17	30	11	5	2	5	1	30	53	1	57	15	72
North Carolina	248	69	70	6	0	5	0	94	47	1	200	27	227
South Carolina	95	48	26	6	0	5	0	97	47	1	200	27	227
Tennessee	148	67	7	6	1	2	0	63	30	0	219	8	227
Texas	407	67	34	25	0	33	0	142	23	1	607	35	642
Virginia	163	75	45	3	0	3	0	48	20	0	217	45	252
Maryland	106	90	15	1	0	3	0	6	5	0	116	15	131
West Virginia	126	97	—	—	—	—	—	4	3	0	130	0	130
Delaware	—	—	7	—	0	—	0	—	—	0	—	7	7
District of Columbia	49	83	—	1	—	0	—	9	15	—	59	—	59
State Unknown	38	86	—	—	—	—	—	6	14	—	44	—	44
TOTAL	2,134	—	278	85	3	77	3	838	—	4	3,134	288	3,422
Percentage	—	68	97	3	1	2	1	—	27	1	91	9	100